



1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718

August 31, 2001

To: Governor's Office, Todd O'Hair, Rm. 204, State Capitol, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Bldg., Rm. 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Director's Office

Legal Unit

Parks Division

FWP Commissioners

Wildlife Division

Dennis Flath

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1201

Montana State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103

Montana State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Avenue, P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620

James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624

George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624

Gallatin County Commissioners, County Courthouse, 311 W. Main, Rm. 301, Bozeman, MT 59715

Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771-1571

Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624

Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923

Glen Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715

Tom Sather, Headwaters Fish & Game Association, P.O. Box 1941, Bozeman, MT 59771-1941

Perry Backus, 65 Redtail, Dillon, MT 59725

John Gatchell, Montana Wilderness Association, P.O. Box 635, Helena, MT 59624

Public Lands Access Association, William Fairhurst, Box 247, Three Forks, MT 59752

Jack Atcheson, State Lands Coalition, 3210 Ottawa Street, Butte, MT 59701

Gene Townsend, Mayor, City of Three Forks, P.O. Box 187, Three Forks, MT 59752

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Decision Notice has been prepared for the proposal to construct a paved trail at the Three Forks Ponds. The comment period ended on August 27, 2001. The decision has been made to proceed with the proposed action.

The draft EA will be accepted as the final EA with no changes.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Flowers
Regional Supervisor

Enclosure

Gallatin

**THREE FORKS PONDS TRAIL CONSTRUCTION PROPOSAL
DECISION NOTICE**

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
REGION THREE, BOZEMAN
AUGUST 31, 2001**

Proposed Action

The City of Three Forks, in cooperation with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), proposes to construct a paved trail from an existing parking area near the south boundary of the park, towards the east along the south edge of the middle pond, to a point where the county road can be safely crossed. The proposed trail route would extend north along the west edge of the eastern-most pond, eventually intersecting a narrow corridor of the Milwaukee Road Fishing Access Site, turning east and terminating at the Madison River. The proposal includes depositing fill material in the southern end of the middle pond in an area approximately 120 feet long by 20 feet wide. This action is necessary to accommodate the trail where the county road is in close proximity to the southern edge of the pond.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

FWP assesses impacts of its proposals to the human and natural environments. The proposal to construct a paved trail on FWP property leased to the City of Three Forks was discussed in the August 10, 2001, Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to comply with the requirements of the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

A fifteen (15)-day comment period was open from August 13 through August 27, 2001. Public notification of the proposed action was publicized in legal notices printed in the Helena Independent Record and The Bozeman Daily Chronicle newspapers.

Summary of Public Comment

No comments were received on the proposal to construct a paved trail at the Three Forks Ponds.


DECISION

Based on the information in the Draft EA, it is my decision to proceed with the proposed action (Alternative A) and construct the trail as described in the Draft EA.

Based on the analysis in the EA and the applicable laws, regulations and policies, I have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the natural or human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

The draft EA is hereby made the final document by this Decision Notice with no modifications or changes.

If you have any questions regarding this Decision Notice, please contact Jerry Walker, Region Three Parks Program Manager, at (406) 994-4042, 1400 S. 19th Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59718, or at gwalker@montana.edu.



Patrick J. Flowers
Regional Supervisor
Bozeman, MT
August 31, 2001